

REMARKS

The Examiner's allowance of claims 13-25, 27, 29 and 32 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 35 and 36 have been amended in a readily apparent manner to avoid this rejection, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 26, 28, 30, 33 and 36 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Skeie. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) the features for resetting the failed device and any other devices that are determined to be prohibited from use, and notifying a second system of the reset of the failed device and the other devices in the first system, as described in claims 26, 28, 30, 33 and 36.

The Skeie reference relates to a method for evaluating a failure in an electronic data storage system that includes detecting a failed component and then analyzing the system level for any diminished usability in view of the failed storage component and its degree of failure. The impact on data availability is then reported to the user so that the user can make use of this information to preempt system-wide failure. In reporting of the potential impact on the other storage components, "the user is notified via a visual display monitor, or the like." (see col. 8, lines 46-47).

In the present invention, the failed device and the other devices that are determined to be prohibited from use are reset, and then the second system is notified of the reset. In contrast, the cited reference teaches that the "user" is notified via a visual display

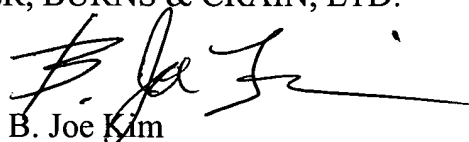
monitor that reports various types of information regarding a component failure. Therefore, even assuming that the "user" described in the cited reference can be broadly interpreted to disclose the claimed second system, the reference still would not disclose or suggest resetting the failed device and the other devices determined to be prohibited from use, nor notifying the second system of this reset, as in the present invention. For this reason, claims 26, 28, 30, 33 and 36 are now believed to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



B. Joe Kim

Registration No. 41,895

January 13, 2006

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315